

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN
POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0021032-09-0

Permittee: City of Ripon, 100 Jackson St, Ripon, WI, 54971

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Ripon Wastewater Treatment Facility, 560 Aspen Street, Ripon, Wisconsin

Receiving Water and Location: Silver Creek in the Big Green Lake Watershed of the Upper Fox River Basin in
Fond du Lac County – SE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec. 17, T16N-R14E (Outfall 001 – Lat: 43.85493° N / Lon: 88.85682° W)

Brief Facility Description: This facility is an oxidation ditch facility that incorporates biological phosphorus removal. Raw wastewater is pumped up to a fine screening area and then to three anoxic zone mixing basins where it is blended with Recycled Activated Sludge from the final clarifiers. Wastewater then enters two oxidation ditches that are operated in parallel. Final clarifiers are next and those are followed by tertiary sand filters. The final effluent goes through UV disinfection prior to discharge. Waste Activated Sludge is pumped to two aerated storage tank basins and then sent to a gravity belt thickener. Ripon has contracted out its sludge storage and land application needs.

Summary of Proposed Changes: Addition of Weekly Geometric Mean Fecal Coliform limitation of 656 #/100 ml effective during the disinfection season. A reduction in the Daily Maximum Ammonia Nitrogen limit from 14 mg/L to 12 mg/L. Ripon has requested a continuation of a variance from the water quality standard for chloride. The proposed interim (variance) limit for chloride has been reduced from 780 mg/L to 663 mg/L as weekly averages. Ripon will now calculate and report the mass discharge of chloride in lbs/day on four consecutive days each month on days when chloride concentration monitoring occurs.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Phillip Spranger, DNR, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI, 53711, (608) 273-5969, Phillip.Spranger@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Mark Stanek, DNR 625 E County Road Y, Suite 700, Oshkosh, WI 54901, (920) 424-7895, Mark.Stanek@wisconsin.gov

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Land application of waste shall be done in accordance with permit conditions and applicable codes. All land application sites shall be approved prior to their use. To receive a list of approved sites, or to be notified of potential approvals, contact the above-named basin engineer.

Proposed Chloride Variance: The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) for chloride is needed in this permit to protect aquatic life. As allowed under s. NR 106.83(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the permittee has requested a variance to the chloride WQBEL. In support of this request, the permittee has submitted documentation intended to demonstrate that the cost of complying with the WQBEL through the use of end-of-pipe wastewater treatment may cause substantial and widespread adverse social and economic impacts in the area where the discharger is located. The Department concurs with that assessment, however this concurrence is subject to USEPA approval before the variance limit may be included in the final reissued permit. In an effort to achieve chloride effluent reductions that are practically and economically achievable within the term of the proposed permit, the Department and the permittee have mutually agreed upon specific permit terms that include an interim limitation, a target limit (or value, as the case may be), and certain source reduction activities. As allowed under s. NR 106.83(3), Wis. Adm. Code, these requirements are contained in the proposed permit.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: Tuesday February 25, 2020, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Ripon Public Library, 120 Jefferson Street, Ripon WI 54971, Nash Room

Hearing Officer, Name, Address, City/State/Zip and Phone: Phillip Spranger, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg WI 53711, (608) 273-5969

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Section 283.49, Wisconsin Statutes, has scheduled for the time and place listed above, a public hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the above announced permit action for this existing discharge.

A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly and speedy way and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing.

The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may put limits on individual oral statements to insure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group.

Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the above-named permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, may be inspected and copied at either the above named permit drafter's office or the above named basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (608) 273-5969 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice, permit and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Ripon Commonwealth Press

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 656 S Douglas Street PO Box 6, Ripon, WI 54971-0006

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, January 9, 2020